The Marker Lamp

Volume 58 Number 2 Summer 2012

This Is Your Next To Last Issue Of The *Marker Lamp*

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The Marker Lamp

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

The recent LSR convention in Houston was another excellent event. There were 26 clinics covering an exceptional variety of topics such as Locomotive & Car Tune-Up, Basic Model Railroading Electrical Wiring and Electronics, and String Diagrams Using Excel. Wow, that's variety. Nineteen unique home layouts in all scales were open, some for the first time. The Non-Rails had 5 clinics and tours. The interesting prototype tours, model and arts/crafts contests, and silent auction rounded out the events. Bob Barnett, convention chairman, and his staff of 25 did a beautiful job of providing a great convention at a reasonable price; kept expenses well under control, and returned excellent profits to their Division 8 and to the LSR. A special "treat" was riding steam and diesel trains at Zube Park and a barbeque which featured a "Houston Dew". In case you don't know what that is, it's 5-6 inches of blowing rain in an hour! Yep, a bunch of folks got soaking wet.

At the banquet it was my honor to present a special President's Recognition to Loren Neufeld for his decades of valuable service to the LSR and to Virginia Freitag, who was named the "First Lady of the LSR" for her 47 years of friendship and service to all.

Sadly, we have recently lost several prominent LSR model railroaders: John Lott, Lubbock, Doyle Bond, San Antonio and Fred Bock, San Antonio. All of these modelers contributed greatly to the hobby and to the Lone Star Region. They will be missed here a lot, but now they are enjoying that great railroad over the rainbow.

Growing up during the Great Depression and the merger war years afterwards and from my work experience in financial administration and project management, one thing I learned was to be cautious regarding fiscal matters. For several years I have pointed out in my messages to you and at the LSR board meetings that the financial situation of the Lone Star Region was not going in a positive direction. In each issue of *The Marker Lamp* the financial income, expenses and resulting net worth of the LSR are reported by the secretary-treasurer.

The primary sources of income for the LSR are: (1) $2.00 per member rebate (our part from the $66 membership fee you pay to the NMRA) which currently is about $1,900 annually; (2) interest from our CD investment accounts, now down to about $25 annually, and (3) the LSR's 50% share of a convention's net profit, which has averaged $1,950 over the past 5 years. Recently the incomes from our investments and some conventions have been unusually low.

By far our biggest expense is the printing and mailing of *The Marker Lamp* which costs us an average of $5,200 each year. This quarterly publication is sent to all NMRA members in our region; currently about 1,075 people. Our other expenses average only $800 each year, primarily for contest awards.

Obviously we are spending far more than we take in. As a result the LSR net worth has declined from $46,500 in FY 2008 to $34,500 in FY 2012. When the issue of whether or not the LSR should begin to collect subscription fees was revisited a couple of years ago because of the mounting printing and mailing costs, campaign promises prevailed and no LSR subscriptions were collected. If this situation of declining income and mounting printing cost continues, the LSR's net worth will be down to about $20,000 by FY 2016. This low net worth (think of it as our credit rating) makes it very difficult to negotiate a good contract for a convention venue where the total bill may be over $22,000. It has also resulted in the chairman sometimes having to put a guarantee for $12,000 or more on his personal credit card. That's an uncomfortable situation for most of us.

However, there is promising news. Sometimes it takes time for reality to sink in and for reason to prevail over passion. Modern technology has come to our financial rescue. Since most of our LSR members now have access to computers, later this year *The Marker Lamp* will be published only on the internet. This will provide an effective way for anyone in the world to receive it. Since our costs will be minimal, obviously this will save us lots of money and take pressure off our concerns about going broke for a while. You will be hearing more about these changes in future issues.

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

With the decision at the Board meeting in Houston to make the *Marker Lamp* digital only, a move that I fully support, I am going to give this issues View from the Sparpole to the new At Large Director, Art Houston for some of his comments. This change will give us a dramatically new look.

Digital Age Comes to LSR

With the decision of the BOD to move the *Marker Lamp* to a Digital Magazine, available only at the LSR web site, a new era has come to LSR. This complete move into the 21st century is one that will bring rewards to everyone in the LSR and the model train hobby. This move will not come without growing pains. We will all have to be committed to make the web site and the *Marker Lamp* the place to go for information about the LSR .

Think about a *Marker Lamp* with Color Pictures and Videos of some of the greatest model railroads in the country. Think about a web site that has updated information on where and what is going on in the LSR. We will no longer be limited in the size of the *Marker Lamp* and the content. You will be able to link your pike adds to a YouTube video of your layout.

The first step in this process is to update the current LSR Web Site. All Division Directors need to take a close look at their division page and gather up the correct information. I am working with Rod Fredricks to correct the Div 2 page.

To have this asset become the go to place for information and activity in the LSR we need first to have the web page reflect the correct information.

I challenge everyone to think outside the box and make the LSR web site and the *Marker Lamp* the best in the hobby.

Arthur Houston
Director at Large, LSR-NMRA

The Gulf Coast Limited

2012 Lone Star Region, NMRA Convention In The Rear-View Mirror

The 2012 Lone Star Region Convention was held in Houston from June 6 to 10, 2012.

On behalf of LSR Division 8 and the host committee, I would like to thank all of the Lone Star Region members who attended. We sincerely hope you had a good time and will return to Houston the next time we host a convention. We had an attendance of 185 Rails and Non-rails and had 204 present at the LSR Banquet.

We had 19 local railroads on the layout tour and six on the Super Tour. If you did not get your fill of visiting Gulf Coast layouts you are invited to check the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club website this fall and drive down for one or more of the weekends on the Fall Layout Tour. We had an excellent turnout in the Contest Room and I am sure the Contest will be covered elsewhere in the *Marker Lamp*. The Auction, hosted by George Bohn and the Beaumont model railroaders, was very successful; we hope you got all of the railroad goodies you bid on. The clinics were extremely well prepared and I hope you picked up a lot of railroad and modeling tips.

The Freitag Service Award was presented to David Milton, a founding member of the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club and Bob Dannenbrink, long- active in the Region, San Jacinto Club and Houston Society of Model Engineers. Houstonians Virginia Freitag and Loren Neufeld received President's Award at the Banquet for their years of outstanding service to the Lone Star Region and the hobby in general. Congratulations to four deserving Houston model railroaders!!

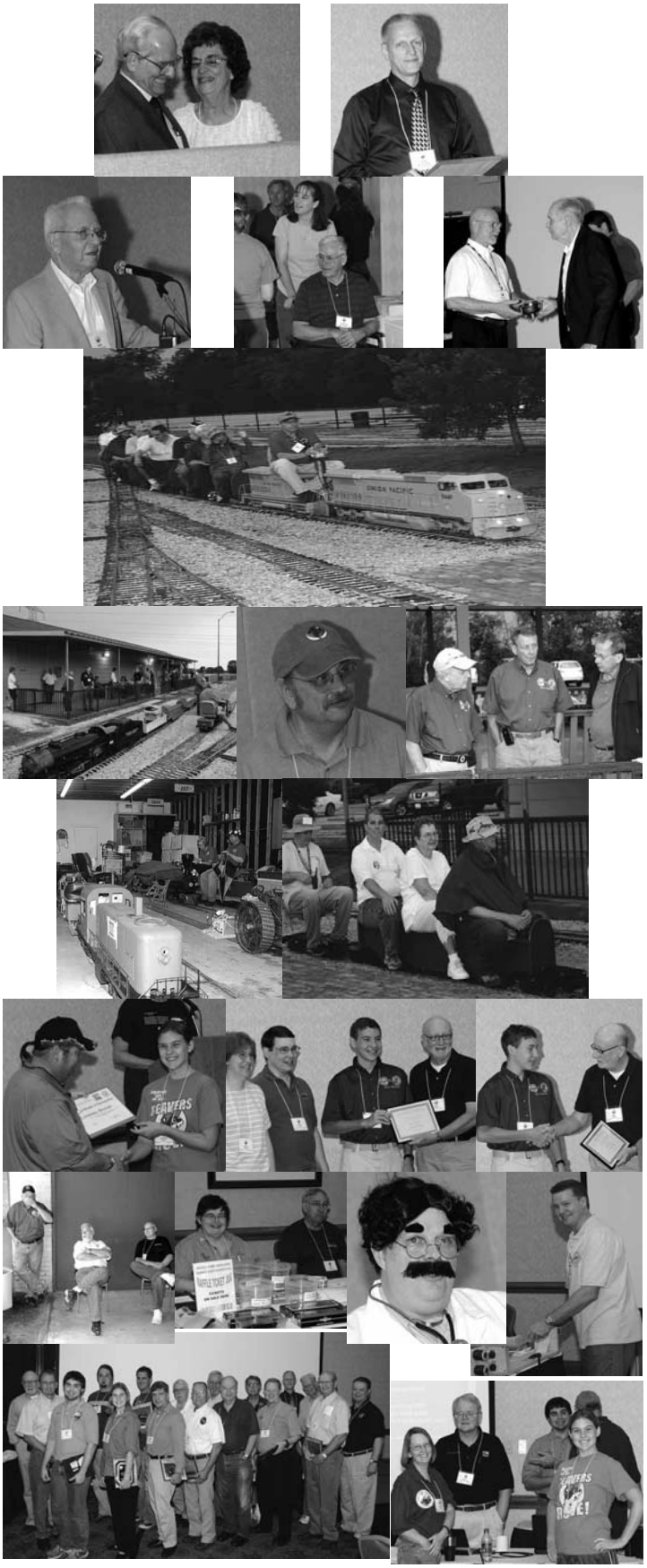
And one last thing: I know that many of you took days to completely dry out after the light thunder shower at Zube Park on Thursday evening. As I write this the Upper Little Cypress Creek watershed (Little Cypress runs along the south side of the HALS tracks) has received 12 to 14 inches of rain in the last 24 hours. Combined with the rain at our convention and since, Zube Park has received 18 to 20 inches of rain in the last month. SO, if you live in an area of the state that is still behind on rainfall: for a fee the Gulf Coast Division will host a picnic or barbeque at your next model railroad activity. Our success rate at inducing rain (and lots of it) is great.

See you in Dallas-Fort Worth next year.

Bob Barnett

Photo Highlights from Houston

by David Lamberts



The Fun of Narrow Gauge Railroading

David W. Lamberts

DEFINITION

The words "scale" and "gauge" are often used interchangeably, although they are quite different. Scale means the feet (or inches) on the real railroad which corresponds to one foot or one inch on your model railroad. In HO scale, for example, one inch on the model corresponds to 87 inches on the prototype. Another way of saying this is that the real prototype is 87 times bigger than your model.

Gauge refers only to the distance between the rails and has nothing to do with scale. To use a map analogy, scale refers to the ratio of the distance on the map compared to the distance in real geography. Gauge refers to the width of the road on which you are driving.

Therefore the term "narrow gauge" only refers to the distance between the rails. In "standard gauge" track that distance is 4 feet 8 ½ inches. In a narrow gauge railroad the distance is three feet (or 2 ½ feet or 2 feet). The commonly used abbreviations for scale and gauge are HOn3, Sn3, On3, or Gn3. The letters refer to scale and the "3" refers to the distance between the rails (three feet). The lower case "n" punctuates the fact that this is narrow gauge track. In Maine there are some railroads which run on two foot tracks (HOn2). Since there is no commercially available track which is two feet between the rails, most modelers use N scale track which is actually 2 ½ feet between the rails. What many people find confusing is that this difference between the rails (gauge) is the ONLY difference between narrow gauge and standard gauge layouts. For example, on my own layout, which is HOn3, everything on the railroad is HO scale; the only difference is that the distance between the wheels of my rolling stock and engines is three scale feet instead of 4 feet 8 ½ inches. All the bridges, structures, people, etc. are HO scale (1.87).

HISTORY

Usually when one thinks of narrow gauge railroading one thinks of Colorado, In fact, narrow gauge lines were found all over the United State (and the world), but the ones in Colorado are by far the most modeled. My own railroad is patterned after a Denver & Rio Grande Western mining railroad in the late 1920s. The man whose dream became the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad was General William Jackson Palmer. He became a general while fighting in the Civil War. While working on the Kansas Pacific during the time that railroad became one of the first to reach Denver (then a city of about 5,000 people), he envisioned a railroad that would serve the rural areas of Colorado. The Denver & Rio Grande was incorporated October 27, 1870 with authorized capital stock of $2.5 million. General Palmer originally conceived of it running from Denver to Mexico with branch lines extending into the mountains along the way. This was during a boom in mining adventures in Colorado. Making the railroad narrow gauge was strictly economic. Much of the right of way would have to be blasted from the rocks and mountains of the Rockies. It would prove to be much less expensive to provide three foot clearances than 4 foot 8 ½ inch clearances. Also, the narrow gauge engines could execute sharper turns.

Interestingly, General Palmer never sought nor received any land grants from the federal or state governments. He financed the railroad himself! His accomplishments were amazing. To provide rails faster than the East could supply them, he developed iron-ore and coal deposits along the right-of-way. He organized and brought to fruition Colorado's only steel mill, the Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation and operated many logging and lumber enterprises.

Many Colorado cities and towns were built because of Palmer's railroad. He founded the city of Colorado Springs. Shortly after the Kansas Pacific arrived at Denver, Palmer resigned post there to tend to the Denver and Rio Grande. The first spike of that railroad was driven on July 28, 1871 at Denver. On the morning of October 26, the first passenger train left Denver headed for the three-month-old city of Colorado Springs. By then end of 1879 the Denver & Rio Grande has spread south to Espanola (just outside Sante Fe), north to Kokomo, east to El Mora, and west to Gunnison.

By the late 1960s the railroad was abandoned. It became the victim of the more competitive standard gauge line, truck shipping, bad weather, and reluctance to keep up a steam railroad in the face of diesel power.

Fortunately there are two lines still preserved for Colorado narrow gauge fans. The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge still runs between those two cities. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s the Denver & Rio Grande Western (formerly the Denver & Rio Grande) attempted to find a suitable buyer for its isolated branch in the San Juan Mountains. Finally, on March 25, 1981, the sale of The Silverton to Charles E. Bradshaw of Rolando, Florida was completed for 2.2 million dollars. Along with the track he received nine locomotives and all the structures, rolling stock and work equipment. To the eternal gratitude of narrow gauge fans, Mr. Bradshaw has kept his word on running the railroad as it ran at the height of the narrow gauge movement. It is an outstanding trip for rail fans, through some of the most beautiful county in the nation.

Also in operation is the Cumbres and Toltec Railroad which runs between Chama, NM and Antonito, NM. This is a much less "formal" railroad and the entire yard is without fences. Rail fans can literally walk around and over the track and photograph anything in site. The yard at Chama is considered the modern day Mecca for narrow gauger and is usually spoken of in hushed and reverent tones.

RESOURSES

I think many modelers who are not into narrow gauge would be amazed to learn of the enormous amount of material available for narrow gauge railroading. There is a journal devoted to this aspect of the hobby, *The Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette* (Bob Brown, ed. Los Altos, CA, Benchmark Publications Ltd.). It is about 100 pages per issue and is published every two months. A one year subscription is $38.00. I have the complete set from Volume 1, Number 1 if anyone needs to look up a reference. It is a beautifully done magazine and is filled with good stuff for anyone who works

in any gauge or scale.

Mike Blazek (http://blazeksplan.com/) has written a series of Narrow Gauge Workbooks on the cities, town, and yards served by the narrow gauge railroads of Colorado. His web site now lists 36 volumes. Every structure is detailed, and every piece of track is diagramed right down to the location of the utility poles (overkill? – I think not).

A mile by mile guide to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad by Doris B. Osterwald called *Cinders & Smoke* (Doris B. Osterwald, Cinders & Smoke, Lakewood, CO: Western Guideways, Ltd, 1999) describes everything of interest on that line by mile post! The history of the line has been written by John B. Norwood in his book *Rio Grande Narrow Gauge*. It describes the line from the time of the first white man on the Colorado plains up to its demise in the late 1960s and contains some great photographs (John B. Norwood, Rio Grande Narrow Gauge, Forest Park, IL: Heimburger House Pub. Co, 1983).

In 2012 the internet is filled with great information regarding narrow gauge railroading, both modeling and prototypes.

MEETINGS

Although there are many narrow gauge meeting in the county during the year, the BIG ONE is the National Narrow Gauge Convention (http://www.seattle2012.com/) held every year in the fall. In 2012 the convention will be in Bellevue, WA from September 12 to 15. The meeting begins at 8:00 A.M. and runs until about 11:00 P.M. each day except for Saturday when it runs until midnight, so it is not for the faint of heart. The format is similar every year. The morning is devoted to clinics and milling around the manufactures' and venders' rooms. Lunch is at noon, and the afternoon is for layout tours and viewing the modules and the contest room. The models in the contest room are incredible – alone worth the price of admission. Dinner is at 6:00 P.M. and then the clinics and the venders' rooms begin again and run to about 11:00 P.M. It is a fabulous meeting. It is not uncommon for the attendance at the National Narrow Gauge Convention to exceed the attendance at the National Model Railroad Conventions.

SO –WHY NARROW GAUGE

I think the thing I enjoy most about narrow gauge railroading is the "no holds barred" flavor of the hobby. Do you like mountains? You can't do better than the San Juans or the Rockies. Do you like flat lands? The line north of Durango is as flat as Lubbock as is Silverton and Chama. Do you like water? Colorado has numerous lake and rivers. Do you like interesting engines? If you have ever had the fun of watching a well running Shay, with its gears singing away and its weird vertical cylinders thrashing up and down, it will be hard to go back to diesels! Architecture for the narrow gauge period is easily modeled. Brick, stone and wood structures were all in abundance. And remember, the only thing narrow is the track. Everything else will remain in your scale of choice.

IS THERE A DOWNSIDE?

There can be some trouble in paradise. Until recently, there were not a lot of ready to run HOn3 engines and rolling stock available. Micro Trains (http://www.micro-trains.com/pl-HOn3.php) and Blackstone Models (http://www.blackstonemodels.com/) are trying to change that. Both offer ready-to-run out of the box rolling stock. Blackstone offers some beautiful C-19 and K-29 engines equipped with DDC and sound. All you do is set them on the track.

Kits still are king, however, in HOn3 (and other narrow gauge scales), if for no other reason than price. These kits are not the "shake the box" kits that are available in standard gauge. Personally, I don't mind this, because I enjoy putting the kits together, but if you like going out and buying 10 box cars and having them running within a few days – forget it. It takes me more than one week just to get one car "track ready."

The same can be said of engines. Many of the older narrow gauge engines are brass imports. My experience with them has been that they are pretty to look at, but they don't run well (one reason I am excited about the Blackstone models).

Many years ago, when I started my layout, the availability of narrow gauge material was scarce, but not anymore. The narrow gauge market has boomed in recent years (especially On30). Now I rarely have problems with obtaining any part or kit I want. However, most of this stuff is NOT in Walther's Catalog. You have to search a little – which actually is part of the fun. If you get a chance to attend the National Narrow Gauge Convention, bring a shopping list.

WHAT GOT ME STARTED

I was attending a medical meeting in New Orleans several years ago when I happened into a hobby shop near the French Quarter. There I purchased a copy of Malcolm Furlow's book *HO Narrow Gauge Railroad You Can Build* (Malcolm Furlow, *HO Narrow Gauge Railroad You Can Build*, Mountain View, CA: Benchmark Publications, 2008). This proved to be a great book for me because, prior to this, I had really been an armchair modeler with a few structures to my credit, but no layout. Malcom's book assumes you have never built a layout before and goes through it all step by step in great detail. This was exactly what I needed. Shortly thereafter I attended my first National Narrow Gauge Convention and I was hooked.

I have really enjoyed my experience with narrow gauge modeling. Anyone could indulge in this part of the hobby, by either starting a layout devoted to the gauge, or adding a short line to an existing layout. Logging and mining were extremely big narrow gauge industries, and either could be added to an existing layout as a branch line.

Bring me men to match my mountains
Bring me men to match my plains
Men with empires in their purpose
And new eras in their brains

The Coming American
By Sam Walter Foss

Lone Star Region 62nd Annual Convention

The Lone Star Region NMRA Convention will be held

Wednesday May 29th to Sunday June 2nd 2013

Sheraton Hotel, in Irving, Texas

Layout Tours

Prototype Tours

Clinics with emphasis on

Operation

from beginner to expert

Lots of layouts for operation

LADIES ONLY!

Petticoat Junction

Notes from Virginia Freitag:

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for all of your prayers that have brought, and continue to bring Gil through this most trying time of his life. Even though he couldn't verbally express himself, I think he got the message across that he thoroughly enjoyed being with everyone at the recent convention.

It was so good to be back after having to miss the last two conventions. I can't remember missing a convention prior to Gil's stroke.

Next, I can't tell you how humbled I was when I received the President's Award at the banquet during the recent Gulf Coast Limited convention. The standing ovation was so overwhelming that my nerves sort of got the best of me. The icing on the cake came after the actual presentation when our son, Gilbert, brought his Dad up. Having them both with me made it an even more memorable occasion. I only wish I could have given everyone there a big hug.

I want to apologize for stumbling through the Contest Awards, but I was still somewhat in shock.

Thanks also to all of the Non-Rails who attended the convention. We had a great attendance at all of the hands-on clinics and for the two speakers and the Vintage Hat Show. The 17 who went on the extra fare trip seemed to enjoy both of the museums and the lunch.

The Arts & Crafts Contest had more entries than I can remember having in a long time. Also, the quality of the entries was outstanding. We did have a special drawing for all who entered this contest and will probably have it again in 2013, so get your entry started.

A special thanks to all who helped with the various programs, especially when I had to be home for the operating session and the open house for Gil's SC&W. Thanks also, to all of the presenters, judges and all who helped out with the various prizes.

WE hope to see you next year.

Don't forget calls and visits are always welcome.

2013 LSR Non-Rail Plans

What a great time we had at the 2012 LSR. It will be hard to beat funerals, butterflies, BBQ, and bean soup, but we are going to try!

The theme for the Non-Rail Arts & Crafts contest will be "Rolling Along." That can be a plethora of things – Trains – Cars – Rolling Pins – Rolling Hills – Wagon Wheels – Rolling Down the River —— you get the idea.

We are putting together several day trips that will include wine, flowers, farming, shopping, and trains.

Some of the hotel activities we are planning include a Model Railroader's Wife Estate Planning session, decorating book bags for school children, a Fourth of July craft, and putting together a LSR cookbook.

And about that cookbook…….If each of you (yes, that means you railroaders need to pass this on to your wives) could email me several of your favorite recipes, I could have them printed and ready to create individual recipe books at the convention. laurielind46@gmail.com

More details to come later…..see you in 2013!

LCT Frederick (Fred) M. Bock IV, MMR, U.S. Army, (Ret.)

October 10, 1945 – May 29, 2012

Fred passed away at age 67 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born in Bronxville, New York to Frederick & Emily Bock III. He moved to California where he earned his Eagle Scout and graduated from Saratoga High School. Fred was awarded a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Berkley where he was in the ROTC. After graduation he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army and stationed at Natick, Massachusetts working in Biomedical Engineering. While he was stationed there he earned his Master's Degree at the University of New Hampshire.

Later he was assigned to San Antonio, where he worked at Fort Sam Houston in the Health Services Command and was awarded his PhD at the University of Texas. After his retirement from the Army, he became a Professor at the University of Incarnate Word, School of Business.

Fred was an avid hiker and also enjoyed cross country skiing. His true enjoyment came from his membership in the National Model Railroad Association, where he worked and earned his Master Model Railroader.

He was a devoted to his faith as a member of the United Parishes of Natick, Massachusetts and Episcopal Church of Reconciliation in San Antonio.

Fred is survived by his wife, Martha, step-sons, Andy and Miguel Cruz; sisters Margaret Bock Jones, Lisa Bock, Karen Fabiano, Claudia Bock; brothers Charles, John Parris and Alan Parris.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Tom Browning

For the Fourth Fiscal Quarter of 2011/2012

Beginning Balance 02/01/2012		
LSR Checking Account		$462.39
Vanguard CD Fund		$22,262.09
Vanguard Convention Fund		$10,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$32,724.48
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1	$3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3	$1,450.89	
Funds Held For Division 4	$3,754.29	
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	$600.00*	
LSR Proceeds		
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$2.79	
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$1.22	
Pike Ads	$216.00	
NMRA Region Rebate	$952.00	
2011 Convention Proceeds**	$562.38	
Walter Zahn Transfer From Fund	$200.00	
Total Proceeds		$1,934.39
LSR Disbursements		
Youth Membership Program	$28.00	
BOD Printing Expense	$133.01	
2013 Convention Advance (Loan)	$1,000.00	
Total Disbursements***		$1,161.01
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements		$773.38
Ending Balance 04/30/2012		
LSR Checking Accounts Total		$2,231.76
Vanguard CD Fund		$22,264.88
Vanguard Convention Fund		$9,001.22
Acct receivable for 2013 Convention		$1,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$34,497.86

Not included in Total LSR Net Worth

Funds Held For Division 1 $3,400.50
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,450.89
Funds Held For Division 4 $3,754.29
Funds Held For Zahn Donation $400.00**

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year to comply with terms of donation.

** A final, additional $134.27 were paid from the 2011 convention to the LSR after the closing date of the fiscal quarter/year.

*** Payment of $1,483.50 for the Marker Lamp (Spring 2012) printing and mailing is after the accounting period was closed. SPECIAL NOTE: The Third Quarter report erroneously showed a division expense causing the totals to not add correctly.

For the Fiscal Year of 2011/2012

Beginning Balance 05/01/2011		
LSR Checking Account		$2,091.19
Vanguard CD Fund		$25,167.80
Correction for error at beginning of fiscal year		$1.41
Vanguard Convention Fund		$9,177.04
Correction for error at beginning of fiscal year		$0.52
Acct Receivable for 2011 Convention		$1,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$37,437.96
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1	$3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3	$1,450.89	
Funds Held For Division 4	$4,255.60	
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	$600.00*	
LSR Proceeds		
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$8.45	
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$3.45	
Transfer from Vanguard CD Fund to Checking	$1,700.00	
Transfer from Vanguard Conv Fund to Checking	$523.22	
Pike Ads	$344.00	
Decals and Patches	$8.00	
NMRA Region Rebate	$1,945.00	
2011 Convention Proceeds**	$905.81	
2011 Convention Advance Repayment	$1,000.00	
Walter Zahn Transfer From Fund *	$200.00	
Total Proceeds		$6,637.93
LSR Disbursements		
Youth Membership Program	$140.00	
Marker Lamp Printing and Mailing	$5,243.88	
BOD Printing Expense	$133.01	
2013 Convention Advance (Loan)	$1,000.00	
SecTres Expense and Postage	$32.72	
Contest Expense	$430.52	
Historian Expense	$116.55	
Achievement Program Expense	$98.95	
Website Expense	$59.60	
Memorial Donation	$99.58	
Vanguard CD to Checking	$1,700.00	
Vanguard Conv to Checking	$523.22	
Total Disbursements***		$9,578.03
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements		-$2,940.10
Ending Balance 04/30/2012		
LSR Checking Account		$2,231.76
Vanguard CD Fund		$22,264.88
Vanguard Convention Fund		$9,001.22
Acct receivable for 2013 Convention		$1,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$34,497.86

Treasures report continued

Not included in Total LSR Net Worth

Funds Held For Division 1	$3,400.50
Funds Held For Division 3	$1,450.89
Funds Held For Division 4	$3,754.29
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	$400.00*

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year to comply with terms of donation.

** A final, additional $134.27 was paid from the 2011 convention to the LSR after the closing date of the fiscal quarter/year.

*** Payment of $1483.50 for the Marker Lamp (Spring 2012) printing and mailing is after the accounting period was closed.

At the beginning of February 2012 the membership was 1,040 and at the end of April 2012 the membership was 1,070. Please welcome our new members listed below:

February 2012

John Skiba, Burleson, TX - 1
Steven Bourg, Greenwell Springs, LA - 2
Flynn Taylor, Deridder, LA - 2
Teri Taylor, Deridder, LA - 2
Ken Towery, McKinney, TX -3
Thomas DeRoo, Cedar Park, TX - 4
David Shannon, Leander, TX - 4
Steven Stelwager, Brenham, TX - 4
David Callaway, Big Spring, TX - 5
Rebecca Jones, TX - 6
Bruce Houck, Houston, TX - 8
Willard Welborn, Stafford, TX - 8

March 2012

Casey Akin, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Tony Cucinotta, Flower Mound, TX - 1
Gam Cunningham, Trophy Club, TX - 1
John DeLancey, Euless, TX - 1
Ron Ford, Lewisville, TX - 1
Sean Klase, Arlington, TX - 1
Cody Akin, Irving, TX - 3
Brad Beathe. Plano, TX - 3
Jean Beathe, Plano, TX - 3
Jeff Boggess, Coppell, TX - 3
John Guedacia, Irving, TX - 3
Don Heaton, Richardson, TX - 3
Sumit Kumar, Richardson, TX - 3
Brian Lipka, Wylie, TX - 3
Donna Orr, TX - 3
David Rothe, TX - 3
Jason Smith, Lancaster, TX - 3
Bill Van Pettern, Allen, TX - 3
Edward Webb, Lancaster, TX - 3
Donna Wilson, Farmersville, TX - 3
Herb Wilson, Farmersville, TX - 3
Wallace Wimbish, Irving, TX - 3
Barry Eaton, Waco, TX - 4
Jonathan, Esposito, Georgetown, TX - 4
Roger Gerlach, Cedar Park, TX - 4
Lisa Combs, San Antonio, TX - 6
Kenneth Rogers, Cibolo, TX - 6
David Shoemaker, Leander, TX - 6
William Bartlett, Houston, TX - 8
Brandon, Collinsworth, Houston, TX - 8
Barbra Durham, Montgomery, TX - 8
Michael Durham, Montgomery, TX - 8
Oscar Gomez, Houston, TX - 8
Walt Newman, Sugarland, TX - 8
Joe Reed, Montgomery, TX - 8
Jack Richardson, Sugarland, TX - 8

April 2012

Hutch Hinton, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Kimberly, Hinton, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Vicki Price, Grapevine, TX - 1
Jimmie Boudreaux, Baton Rouge, LA - 2
Ernie Saik, Baton Rouge, LA - 2
Jayson Vilett, Ponchatoula, LA - 2
Joseph Urrutia, Lago Vista, TX - 4
Grant Gallaway, San Antonio, TX - 6
Lothar Harris, San Antonio, TX - 6
Robert Ross, San Benito, TX - 6
Larrry Hamilton, Friendswood, TX - 8
William Smith, Cypress, TX - 8

Company Store Inventory as of January 15, 2012

All cars sold out.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches $5.00 each (Only LSR Life – 35 avail.)
Auto/Window Region Decal $ .50 (1 avail.)
N Scale (13 avail.) Nevadun Decals $2.00 per sheet
HO Scale (8 avail.) & N Scale (22 avail.) Daw Cha Southern Decals $3.00 per sheet

Shipping

Please add $1.00 for patches and decals
Matthew Latham, Dispatcher
2320 Hickory Leaf Lane
Flower Mound, TX 75022-4945
972-358-6168
E-mail: wnrailway@yahoo.com

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting

Houston, Texas – June 10, 2012

President Bill McPherson called the Annual Board meeting to order at 9:43 am.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except Dispatcher N/HO Scale Cars Chair Matthew Latham and Membership Co-Chair Mike Jobe.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Director-At-Large Chuck Lind provided a motion and Director-At-Large Duane Richardson seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the January 14, 2012 Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting published in the 2012 winter issue of *The Marker Lamp*. The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports

President Bill McPherson

The President's Report was submitted by email to all Board members and is summarized as follows:

Division activity is energizing our membership. Meetings held locally have clinics, cook-offs, prizes, layout tours, train shows, outreach to the Boy Scouts and to hospitals all around the region. The region lost three prominent members recently: John Lott Sr. of Lubbock, Doyle Bond MMR of San Antonio and Fred Bock MMR of San Antonio. These gentlemen played important roles in the Lone Star Region and they will be missed.

Secretary/Treasurer Tom Browning

The Secretary/Treasurer's Report, was submitted by email to the Board members and is summarized as follows:

For the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2011-2012 the beginning balance as of February 1, 2012 was $32,724.48 and the ending balance on April 30, 2012 was $34,497.86. For the fiscal year 2011-2012 the beginning balance as of May 1, 2011 was $37,437.96 and the ending balance on April 30, 2012 was $34,497.86. These balances exclude restricted funds held for Division 1, Division 3, Division 4 and the Zahn Fund.

The annual audit was conducted on June 9, 2012, by Tom Browning. The audit committee consisted of Don Kimmell, Lesley Bodak and Steve Barkley.

Tom Browning recommended that the current and combined position of Secretary-Treasurer be separated into two positions of Secretary and Treasurer to reduce the work load. After Don Kimmell reviewed the LSR Constitution and By-Laws it was determined that no action or vote was required by the Board of Directors. The Nomination Chair, Steve Barkley will solicit nomination for a separate Secretary and Treasurer in the next election.

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported that the Cowcatcher Division continues to have meetings every other month, alternating between the LMRA clubhouse and the Texas Western clubhouse. These meeting have clinics and provide a great setting for socializing. The Cowcatcher Division also participates in DFW area train shows and recruits new members for Division 1 & 3.

Division 2 Director Dick Schneider reported that the Bayou Division membership is holding steady and local club membership is rising. Saturday morning breakfasts continue in Baton Rouge and are gaining in popularity. Dick Schneider welcomes new division director Rod Fredericks.

Division 3 Director Jerry Hoverson reported that the Trinity River Division has been very active holding monthly meetings. These meetings have clinics, prizes, "show and tell", merit judging, layout tours and operating tours. A special recognition time is set aside for those receiving merit or AP certificates. On occasion up to four clinics will be conducted at the same time so that the attendees can go to a clinic of their choice or multiple clinics. Short "tips and tricks" clinics are given as well. The Trinity River Division also participates along with the Cowcatcher Division in the local train shows.

Division 4 Director Jack Merkel reported that Division 4 had four meetings in September, December, March and June that included clinics, "show and tell", "deal or duds" prizes, social time and layout tours. The division has made posters describing the NMRA benefits and AP Program. Additionally, flyers are posted at a local hobby shop. Division 4 had booths at three train shows: Temple, Austin and Round Rock. Thirteen new members were signed up at these shows.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts reported that Division 5 hosted the 2011 convention in Lubbock. The convention produced a total of $1,771.54 to the LSR (beating the budget by almost by $300) and $1,363.54 to the local club. On a sad note for Division and the LSR we lost Mr. John Lott Sr. He passed away on May 9, 2012 at the age of 98. He was one of the founding members of the Lubbock Model Railroad Association 50 years ago.

Division 6 Tom Crosthwait reported that much of the activity takes place in the local clubs. San Antonio NTRAK (100% NMRA) lost its lease and Fred Houzvicka is leading the effort to find a new site. San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA) has hosted a series of slide show clinics by Carl Lehman called "Lest We Forget" which chronicle railroads in the 1950's and 60's. This is to help SAMRA members know the placement of correct details for the club layout.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported that membership is holding steady at approximately 30 individuals. Division activity has been or will be: Introduction sessions for Boy Scouts - Two in Monroe, LA, one in Bossier City, LA and one in Gibbsland, LA. The Tree House Children's Museum in Alexandria, LA continues to produce "Junior Engineers" and there is a possibility that the NMRA will take the program to a national level. Division 7 had a display at the recently opened Moses Layout in Jefferson, TX. There is a planned clinic later June 2012 at the Shrine Hospital in Shreveport, LA in conjunction with the Ark-La-Tex Club.

Division 8 Director Ray Byer did not submit a report.
Director-At-Large Duane Richardson did not submit a report.
Director-At-Large Chuck Lind did not submit a report.
Director-At-Large Tracy Mitchell did not submit a report.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Al Boos reported the following achievement certificates and awards were awarded during the past year:

MMR – Charles Kirk
Volunteer – John T. Bailey & Larry Swigert
Prototype Modeler – Charles Kirk & Loren Neufeld MMR
Electrical –Don Winn
Author - Larry Swigert
Golden Spike – Six were awarded

Loren Neufeld has now earned all eleven Certificates and will be awarded special recognition for this accomplishment from the NMRA.

The lag time on return confirmations have taken up to three or four months in the past year.

Convention Chair Bill McPherson distributed updated copies of his report showing the attendance, income, expenses, and profit/loss comparisons for the LSR conventions from 2001 through 2011. From the data in this report it can be determined why some conventions are successful, not only from the events offered, but from the attendance and financial standpoints. The future convention schedule is Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex -2013 and either San Antonio or possibly a wild-card location in 2014.

Dispatcher Matthew Latham reported that the available stock of Company Store materials has now reached $291.50 and not much remains.

Nominating Chair Steve Barkley did not submit a reported.

Publications Chair Chuck Lind reported that four *Marker Lamps* were produced this past year. One issue was late.

Website Chair Duane Richardson did not submitted a report

Parliamentarian Bob Mangrum had nothing to report.

Youth Chair Bob Mangrum reported that he continues to send bi-weekly reminders to each member of the Board to consider encouraging them to find eligible and deserving young people to be nominated as their division representative.

Division 1 – Andrew Winn of Ft. Worth

Division 8 – Lindsey Bodak of Houston

Membership Co-Chairs Larry Swigert and Mike Jobe submitted a Membership Report with assistance from Tom Browning.

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported he has completed the "Up the Tracks" column for all of the *Marker Lamps* for the past year and there are no outstanding issues.

Photography Chair Dave Lamberts reported that he continues the duties of "Photography". He also requested the new members to the Board of Directors be photographed after the meeting.

Education Chair, Tracy Mitchell reported the results of the division activity submitted as follows:

Divisions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 did not submit a report to the Education Chair.

Division 4 – Conducted four clinics. David Peterson – "An Introduction to Trainz Software", David and Sammy Nicastro – "17 Ways Not to Build a Signal and One Pretty Good Way to Do it", Chuck Lind - "Sawmills and how they are built and operated" and Steve Blackson - "Outdoor railroading, Gee - what a scale"

Division 7 - Introduction sessions for Boy Scouts - Two in Monroe, LA, one in Bossier City, LA and one in Gibbsland, LA. There is a planned clinic later June 2012 at the Shrine Hospital in conjunction with the Ark-La-Tex Club.

Division 8 – San Jacinto Model RR Club monthly meetings – Five clinics conducted. "SP" (in February by Joe Dale Morris), "Scratch building rolling stock with styrene" (in March by Steve Barkley), "Railfanning through the Camera of Tom Marsh" (in April by Tom Marsh), "MoP Brownsville Passenger Depot" (in May by David Currey), "Making a Power Point Presentation" (in June by Blake Bogs).

Old Business

Tom Browning provided a motion to take from the table the motion from the previous meeting to change the By-Laws in the Treasurer's section and the Convention section combined and since there was no second, thus motion died.

Bill McPherson reported on the membership status. The membership is continuing to grow due to the efforts of the Membership committee members Larry Swigert and Mike Jobe along with efforts of the Division Directors. Tom Browning decompiles the monthly membership reports received from National into division reports. These reports list all members, new members, renewals, 30 and 60 days past due on dues and other related reports.

Bill McPherson reported on the results of the Lubbock CapRock Xpress 2011 Convention Report. The convention is considered a success and Dave Lamberts reported that the Host received $1,363.54 and the LSR received $1,771.54. Many thanks go to the members of the Lubbock CapRock Xpress 2011 Convention.

Bill McPherson reported that the economic impact of the convention has become a big factor in the financial well-being of the LSR since the cost incurred by the LSR is more than the money coming in. Thus it has become more and more important to have a successful convention.

Chuck Lind provided a special convention report from a committee consisting of Loren Neufeld, MMR, Steve Sandifer, MMR, Bob Barnett and Chuck Lind MMR.

The cost of a convention is becoming prohibitive with the food costs as much as 60-65% of the total cost of a convention. Consequently, the study looked for ways to reduce the cost of the conventions. One aspect of the study looked into renting a church to replace the meeting rooms and ballrooms needed for the convention. The cost would range from $3,000 to $5000 for use of Wednesday through Saturday. This could result in a lower cost to those attending but not having the convenience of everything being in a hotel. After much study the committee recommended that the Sunday breakfast be eliminate and the LSR business meeting be moved to the evening of the first day of the convention. Another item that could reduce cost is to eliminate the Silent Auction since it takes a large amount of space and requires a great deal of manpower.

Although the original study did not include a review of the budget the cost of the *Marker Lamp* and its big impact on the budget. A recommendation is that the paper publishing be replace and make it available on the LSR website and provide a means of making a paper copy at a cost. At least one paper publication per year would be necessary to mail out ballots and related information.

Much discussion followed the report resulting in a Board

request that the committee continue researching other venues for conventions in the future.

Tom Browning reported that the Convention Fund level is $9,001.22 as of June 10, 2012. Tom Browning provided a motion and seconded by Ray Byer to raise the Convention Fund level to $10,000.00. The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 2 passed.

Tom Browning provided a motion and seconded by Dick Schneider to change the Treasurer By-Laws as spelled out in the email and handout provided in the meeting. The nature of the changes is to make the By-Laws reflect today's world and to put the Treasurer's duties into the Treasurer section of the By-Laws. Tom Browning provided a motion to amend the motion and seconded by Dick Schneider to change the wording in paragraph 3.) to read: "3. Reserve Fund. The reserve fund shall be used as a reserve fund for funds needed in the General Fund." The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 3 passed.

Tom Browning provided a motion and seconded by Ray Byer to change the By-Laws for the section regarding Conventions as spelled out in the email and handout provided in the meeting. Ray Byer called for vote and the motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 4 failed.

Marc LaChey presented a comprehensive progress report for the Dallas-Fort Worth 2013 Convention Progress Report. Highlights of the report are: The Silent Auction may be dropped from the convention because of how labor intensive it is and the difficulty of securing volunteers, declining revenues over the past several years and because a modular layout may occupy the space and be used as a practice operations layout. Consideration is being give to having a family discount for registration. Consideration is being given to adding sponsorship to offset some of the costs of having the convention. Negotiations with potential sponsors continue. The Thursday night activity being considered is a visit to the new Museum of the American Railroad being relocated from Fair Park in Dallas. Al Harper, Chairman/CEO of American Heritage Railways has agreed to be the feature speaker and attend at his own expense, thus freeing up resources for other use. American Heritage Railways owns and operates several touring railroads around the country. Marc LaChey provided a number of spreadsheets demonstrating how various approaches impact the income and expenses of the convention. Duane Richardson began a motion to permit the planning to continue as reported by Marc LaChey and committee but later rescinded the motion before formally proposed. By informal approval by the Board Marc LaChey was asked to continue moving forward with his planning. There was applause from the Board members for Mark LaChey's efforts and presentation.

New Business

Bill McPherson recognized and welcomed the new members of the LSR Board of Directors: Director-At-Large - Art Houston, Director of Division 2 - Rod Fredericks and Director of Division 8 - Leslie Bodak. Directors re-elected were Director-At-Large - Tracy Mitchell, Director-At-Large - Duane Richardson, Director of Division 4 - Jack Merkel and Director of Division 6 - Tom Crosthwait. Tracy Mitchell thanked outgoing Director-At-Large - Chuck Lind, Director of Division 2 - Dick Schneider and Director of Division 8 Ray Byer for their service to the LSR.

Duane Richardson provided a motion and Don Kimmell seconded to destroy the ballots of the last election. The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 5 passed.

Tom Browning provided a budget report, Art Houston provided a motion and seconded by Chris Atkins to approve the budget as submitted. Highlights of the budget are as follows: income from *Marker Lamp* ads is $358, profit from 2012 convention is $1500, Zahn fund is $200, NMRA rebate is $1,950 and interest is $12 which totals $,4020. Expense for meetings, postage, AP, contest, historian, membership, youth and memorial donations is $1,550 advance to 2013 convention $1,000 and *Marker Lamp* $5,600 which totals $8,150. This will be a reduction in net worth of $4,130.

The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 6 passed.

Chris Atkins provided a motion and Don Kimmell to publish the *Marker Lamp* on-line and to publish one paper *Marker Lamp* each year to provide ballots and other LSR news. The motion was amended by Chris Atkins and seconded by Don Kimmell publish two more *Marker Lamps* before publishing on-line to allow time to advise the membership and allow implementation of on-line publishing. After much discussion regarding the future of how the *Marker Lamp* will be distributed Don Kimmell provided a call to vote and seconded by Jerry Hoverson. The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 7 passed.

Chris Atkins provided a motion and seconded by Don Kimmell that the *Marker Lamp* be published on-line and that one publication be mailed each year a single page newsletter that would contain a ballot, nominee profile and other newsworthy item. Chris Atkins provided an amendment to his motion and seconded by Don Kimmell to publish the *Marker Lamp* in paper form two more times to allow implementation of the on-line publication of the *Marker Lamp*. The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 8 passed.

Art Houston raised a point to move the Board of Directors meeting to another time during the convention to free people to go home earlier. The Board held a straw vote to do this and was agreed upon.

Bill McPherson asked that the LSR officer roster be checked by everyone to make sure the information is correct.

Jerry Hoverson provided a motion and seconded by Chris Atkins to adjourn the meeting. The motion designated as 2012-06-10 LSR Motion 9 passed.

Up the Tracks Events Calendar for the LSR

July 2012

By Bill Dryden

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at **bdr149@airmail.net**.

Lone Star Region 62nd Annual Convention (2013)

The Lone Star Region NMRA 62nd Annual Convention will be held in Irving, May 29–June 2, 2013.

Check the LSR website http://www.lonestarregion.com/convention.shtml

Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Garland

Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX . Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson at jhoverson@tx.rr.com or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers

HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs - Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

September

15th – 16th 30th Annual Temple Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $5, $1 Discount for Seniors and Active Duty Military and Dependents with ID, Children 12 and under free with adult. Frank Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, TX. For more information: www.centramod.com.

October

6th – 7th Alamo Model Railroad Engineers 24th Annual Fall Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7 or Family $10. Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, TX. For more information: http://www.txtransportationmuseum.org/event-amre-train-show.php or call the Texas Transportation Museum at (210) 490-3554.

13th – 14th 30th Annual LMRA Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children under 10 free with adult ticket. Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area; 3400 Bryant Irvin Road; Ft. Worth, TX. For more information, contact: http://www.lmra.org.

November

10th – 11th North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs 28th Annual Fort Worth Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under free with adult ticket; Boy Scouts and Boy Scout Leaders free. Amon G. Carter Exhibits Building, Will Rogers Memorial Center,3401 W. Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com.

December

8th 15th Annual Open House – Stan Pirzchalski's MDAK Layout. Sat. 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission is a donation of can goods or an unwrapped child's toy. 4832 Lakeside Drive, Colleyville, TX.

January 2013

5th – 6th World's Greatest Hobby Train Show Fort Worth. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults: 2 Day registration $12, Saturday only $11, Sunday only $10, Kids under 16: FREE! (must be accompanied by a parent). Will Rogers Memorial Center,3401 W. Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX. For more information: http://www.wghshow.com/schedule.html.

19th – 20th North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs 28th Annual Dallas Area Trains Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under free with adult ticket; Boy Scouts and Boy Scout Leaders free. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway; Plano, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com.

April 2013

6th – 7th New Braunfels Railroad Museum 26th Annual Train Jamboree. New Braunfels, TX.

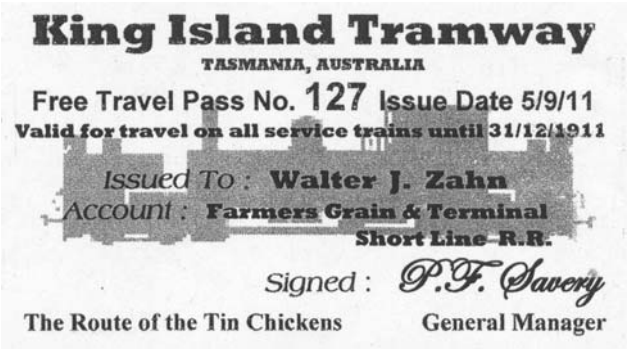
Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event - Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the* Marker Lamp *is the middle of the following month.

Pass Exchange

There seems to be an interest in the Lone Star Region to bring the Pass Exchange program back to life. Walter Zahn has decided to work on renewing interest in this program. If you are interested in participating please send him 2 samples of your pass and in return you will get a pass and a list of Active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes and send a pass of the quarter that will be displayed in *The Marker Lamp*.

Please help Walter get this program moving again. Send your passes to: Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

PASS of the Quarter


King Island Tramway
TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA
Free Travel Pass No. 127 Issue Date 5/9/11
Valid for travel on all service trains until 31/12/1911
Issued To : Walter J. Zahn
Account : Farmers Grain & Terminal
Short Line R.R.
Signed : P.F. Savery
The Route of the Tin Chickens
General Manager

PASS of the quarter is for the King Island Tramway by Patrick F. Savery, 84 Queen Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania 7315, Australia. The Pass is printed on quality card stock and is extremely colorful.

Submit your PASS to Walter and you could be featured as the next PASS of the Quarter.

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins
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Web:http://cowcatcherdivision.com

It seems that every year about this time I have to turn in my Summer report to the division and I'm on vacation. This year is no exception. I spent the day rail fanning northern Wyoming and Montana on my way the Northern Pacific Historical Society's convention in Butte. I hope you all have had a chance to get out and visit some railroads this summer.

I had the opportunity to do the same a little closer to home in June. A group from Division 1 made the trip to the Santa Fe Historical and Modeling Society's convention in Temple by way of Brownwood. Division member, and recent MMR, Bob Mangrum hosted several of us to a personalized tour of the railroad museum and Harvey House in Brownwood. One of the highlights was seeing a seemingly endless train of windmill towers heading west.

Earlier in June, the gang in Houston hosted another successful LSR convention. Other than a little extra rain on Thursday afternoon, it seems to have gone off without a hitch.

Speaking of conventions, we are busy putting together the details for next year's LSR convention in Irving. I hope you are all planning on attending. Convention chair Marc LaChey has a lot of thoughts on shaking it up a little and putting together an extraordinary convention. The emphasis in 2013 is going to be operations. As a division, I'm planning on building a portable switching layout that can be operated at the convention hotel. If you'd like to help build the layout, please contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com and we can talk about it.

I heard today that the World's Greatest Hobby train show will be returning to Ft. Worth next January 5th and 6th. Of course, the last time it was in town it was a lot of fun. Hopefully the Plano train show can actually benefit from the publicity of the earlier show in Cowtown.

We will have a division meeting in August and talk about layout design and planning. Stay tuned to http://cowcatcherdivision.com for more information.

Take care.

Bayou Division 2

by Rod Fredericks
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Before I get into the area activities I would like to thank my fellow club member and good friend Dick Schneider for his four years of excellent service as Division Director. It was a good time and things a great in the division. So thanks again Dick.

Activities at our Mid-South Model Railroad Club here in Baton Rouge are as brisk as ever. In the past two years we have added new members and kept the ones we already had. Progress on the CTC signaling system is proceeding well. We have completed the signaling on about half of the railroad (4 nodes), and hope to get fifth node operational by the end of August. We also continue to have bi-monthly operating sessions which are open to operators outside the club. We do have to limit the number to around 20 (including club members). If you are interested in attending one of these Saturday afternoon sessions drop our club's operations chairman, Art Houston, an email (ahouston3@charter.net) to get on the list.

There are a number of privately owned layouts around the area that have regular operating sessions as well. Art Houston has an excellent layout at his home in Houma, LA, and it is always a personal pleasure to operate there. I have also recently operated on Lou Schultz's layout in Covington, and visited with Jim Lofland here in Baton Rouge, and the Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad Club in Jackson, LA. Like our MSMRC, the

latter is another 100% NMRA club. They have a number of layouts, and function as a museum. They have inside and outside layouts in just about any scale and gauge from Z to 1:1, and even an authentic old town station, a number of vintage railroad cars, and steam locomotive.

This coming weekend a few of us from the area are going to Bella Vista and Bentonville, AK, to operate on layouts there. It always amazes me the number of quality model railroads in that area, and what a pleasure it is to operate on them.

I also attended the Regional convention in Houston, and it was great. My hat is off to the guys there who put it on. I strongly encourage any NMRA members to attend these annual Lone Star Region conventions each year.

On a personal note, I have been working steadily on my home layout. It is HO and HOn3, with an emphasis on the latter. It is double decked affair housed in 12' by 30' building in my back yard. The back wall portion is completed, which runs from knee level to above head height. Presently I am building the last section of bench work on the upper level and hope to have that half of the railroad operating by the end of the year. Happy model railroading.

Trinity River Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR
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Did you have a great time at the Gulf Coast Limited in Houston? If not it's your own fault, there was plenty to see and do from prototype tours to fantastic layouts. The highlight to me, as usual, was to meet up with old friends again. In this case it was special because I hadn't seen Don Bozman or Gil Freitag in a long, long time. It was great to visit with them and see their fantastic layouts once again.

Our monthly meetings continue but we'll be moving back to the downtown Garland Nicholson Memorial Library at least through September. Not only that but we'll have to switch July and September to the 4th Saturday instead of our normal 3rd Saturday due to scheduling conflicts with the libraries. The bottom line here folks is that things change so the only way for you to make sure you've got the latest on the monthly meeting is to make sure I've got your current email address and get you on our meeting notice emails. So, if you're not getting these please contact me at jhoverson@tx.rr.com and I'll make sure you do.

Remember the little 8x12 scratch built shack we built during our March and April meetings? Jeff Palmer took 1st place in off line structures at the Houston convention with that little project. Well done Jeff!

Tom Stocks also took 1st and 2nd place with his 2 Thrall flat cars that we used for scratch building rolling stock clinics during several meetings last year and Roy Stockard entered his flat car and merited with 105.5 points as well.

Bob Brendle took 1st place in On-Line Structures with his Alma Garret No. 1 Mine, and Mike Jobe took 1st place in dioramas with his "Goober's Garage". Finally, Larry Swigert won "favorite Train", a popular vote with his circus train.

Oh, I forgot to mention the Akins brothers, Casey and Cody. Yes I know they live in Division 1 but we've adopted them since they've been coming to our meetings. You know that little engine we've been watching the progress on since last January?

Not only did it win 1st place in steam locomotives but took, "Novice Best in Show" and "Best in Show" with 123 out of a possible 125 points!

There were a lot of other winners from our division, so congratulations one and all! It's really great seeing this take place 2 years in a row, let's keep this going in 2013!

Take care all and keep "working on the railroad" but most of all come join us at our monthly meetings, get involved with the division, and have some railroading FUN!

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Jack Merkel
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Several Division 4 members had a great time at the Gulf Coast Limited LSR Convention in Houston. We attended several excellent clinics on a wide variety of topics. Several clinics included presentations and photographs of Houston area prototype railroads. The tour of the PTRA North Yard facilities was a highlight for me. This was a good tour of their repair facilities along with some discussion of their yard operations. We also had a nice time Thursday evening as we got to take a ride on the HALS system after the rain subsided. Other members either operated or toured the many excellent layouts in Houston.

I spent Friday evening as a judge in the contest room. If you plan to scratch build rolling stock, structures and bridges, a good place to start is contest judging. This gives you a good feel for the criteria the judges are using in rating your model

Bob Barnett and his crew put on a fine convention.

We had 37 people attend our Division meeting on Saturday June 2 at the Round Rock Library which tied our prior attendance record. Steve Blackson presented a clinic titled "Outdoor railroading: Gee, what scale is it". This clinic described the differences in modeling G Scale outdoors versus HO scale indoors. Steve had many pictures illustrating the challenges of modeling outdoors. He also had several pictures of outstanding outdoor railroads he had built. We had our normal show and tell table with several items presented. Tom Pearson presented his DCC minute program. After the social time, the winners of the Kings Hobby Shop gift certificates were picked during the Deal or Duds session. After the meeting, we will toured Steve's Cypress Canyon Railroad and two other G-Scale outdoor railroads built by Gerald Burgess and Bill Albrecht. Steve's and Bill's railroads are both designed for future operating sessions.

Our next Division 4 meeting will be on Saturday, Sept 22 at the Round Rock City Library. We will begin at 11:15 am. The later than normal start time is due to room availability at the library. Riley Triggs will be our clinician. His topic is "The Continuous Model Railroad" – how to model more railroad than your room can hold. We will also have our normal show and tell table, Tom Pearson's DCC minute, social time and Deal or Duds program. After the meeting, we will tour Bill McCall's Denver, Santa Fe and Rio Grande RR. The library is located at 216 E. Main St. in Round Rock. On I-35, exit at RR 620 (Exit 252B) and proceed East on RR 620 for a few blocks to the intersection with Main St. and continue East on Main St. for another block and half to the library.

On the operating front, David Barrow has completed phase 1 of his new signal system. The system currently operates with a computer simulated CTC panel. Phase 2 will tie in his full size CTC panel. He continues to hold operating sessions along with Pete Guy, David NiCastro, Phil Sharpneck and myself.

Until next time, try an operating session. You will like it!

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
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Sadly, a great friend of the hobby passed away this May. Herein is an edited copy of the obituary of John Lott.

John Francis Lott, Sr. LUBBOCK- John Francis Lott, Sr. of Lubbock, Texas, age 98, died Wednesday, May 9, 2012. Family graveside services were held Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 2 p.m. followed by a memorial service at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Mr. Lott was born in Kansas City, Missouri on March 24, 1914 to Mamie Slaughter Lott and Frank E. Lott. He graduated Wentworth Military Academy and served as a First Lieutenant, G2, in the US Army Reserve. He married Ryla Tizard Lott on December 28, 1935. Mr. Lott was employed at the Ford Motor Company accounting department from 1933 to 1945, at which time he moved his family to Post, Texas and assumed leadership of the family ranching and farming operations of the U Lazy S Ranch. He became an active and valued member of the Post community where he served in various capacities at First United Methodist Church, the Boy Scouts of America Post Troop 16, and experimental ranching organizations. After turning over the ranching operations to his son in 1958, he and Ryla moved to Lubbock where his interest in civic and philanthropic activities expanded to include regional, national and international Boy Scouting (Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo, Bronze Wolf, Ryla and John F. Lott South Plains Boy Scout Office); Methodist Hospital (Board of Trustees 1959-1988, Ryla and John F. Lott Neonatal Unit); the Louise Underwood Center (John F. Lott Gallery); and the National Ranching Heritage Center (co-founder, donor of first structure, 2000 Boss of the Plains). Mr. Lott's other interests included international travel, model railroading, art, and his large family. He is predeceased by his wife, Ryla, who died in 1994 and his sister, Mary Belle Lott Macy, who died in 2005. On July 7, 1998 he married Sue Bledsoe Scott Lott, who survives him. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to South Plains Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the National Ranching Heritage Center, or the charity of your choice.

Published in *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* from May 11 to May 12, 2012

John was one of the founding members of the Lubbock Model Railroad Association. The hobby will be less without him.

Division 6

by Tom Crosthwait
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Lots of new duties with my job have left me with a little less time to spend with model railroading. Also my very good friend and avid Southern Pacific model railroader, before his death, asked that I handle the disposition of his collection. My train room now has the appearance of a well stocked hobby shop. Hopefully when I see you at the upcoming train shows, you will relieve me of much of my inventory.

Late summer is upon us here in South Texas and that means the beginning of Train Show Season. SAMRA's summer family train show is at the end of July, followed in a few weeks by the group in New Braunfels. Please support your local clubs and the efforts to bring you vendors with lots of options and good deals.

Pat Mackin with SAMRA continues to host the Boy Scout model railroad merit badge clinics at the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Center. It's always fun to see about 30 scouts showing interest in the workings of railroads and model railroads.
Gary Brown has donated to SAMRA a computer with several programs that provide research for modeling projects. I believe Model Railroader and Model Railroad Craftsman are available plus a couple other programs.

SANTRAK, San Antonio N-Track club, was looking at a new home somewhere in the area of SA International airport. I haven't heard from them to know if this has come to fruition. Let's hope they get this facility. They are doing a great job offering a place to practice the modeling hobby. By the way, SANTRAK is a 100% NMRA club. Congratulations!

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
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Greetings again from North Louisiana, not so hot and dry, but still hot.

Sorry you missed another great convention, as usual the folks down in Houston put on a great one, of course there was a small issue with water and the Thursday night BBQ, I guess you could say the iced tea was a "bit" watered down! But was fun anyway. The clinics were outstanding, there were a number of new layouts to visit, and the prototype tours were great! A good time was had by all! Again sorry if you missed it, so put next years on your schedule right now, it will be the last couple of days in May and the first two days in June.

Your Board of Directors have approved a couple of changes for the future, mainly to save the Region some money. I am sure Bill will be informing everyone about what is going to happen, if there is anything that you fell strongly about, please let me know, you can reach me on my cell at 318-469-4922 or my email in the front. Thanks.

As to upcoming events, locally the Marshall Show (1st weekend November) is on hold for a while, the usual money/attendance issues. Please keep your eyes open; the KCS' Holiday Express schedule is in the final corporate approval process as we speak, so our area may be pleasantly surprised this year.

The Ark-La-Tex club has wrapped up another visit to the Shrine Hospital here in Shreveport. The folks there really appreciate their visits every 6 months, says it sure helps the kids, of all ages!

So lets go play trains!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Leslie Bodak
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Phone: 281-486-0709

First, as the new Division 8 Director, I would like to tell you a little about myself. I work for a NASA contractor at JSC watching people lie in bed for 70 days. My first memory of trains was growing up in Bryan along the SP main. I was about 4 years old when my older brother ran into the house yelling that the car had been "run over" by a train. It was only a short time later when I was "run over" by a train as my dad and I were going under the trestle that was going over Highway 21. I guess you can say I've been chasing trains ever since.

I am married to a wonder man, Mike, who is currently serving as Vice President of Division 8. Our daughter, Lindsay, was the Division 8 Youth Member last year. Our family are members of several model railroad clubs in the area. We model HO with the Bay Area Railroad Fellowship (BARF) and Northside Ultimate Train Society (NUTS) and N scale with the N'Crowd. Mike and I recently received our Golden Spike and Lindsay is currently working on hers as well.

Now to the division news. In February, the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club hosted their annual train show in Stafford. The show had a good turnout and there were lots of layouts, great clinics, and lots of fun in the contest room. For those who have not entered models, this is a great place to start.

In April, we had our annual Division 8 Chili Cook-Off. We had a great time visiting with friends, eating some great chili, and for the railfans, a few trains came through. Jim Long makes a great coconut-pineapple cake over an open flame!

In June, Division 8 hosted the LSR Convention. What a great time! There were a lot of great, informative clinics and some really fantastic entries in the contest room, and the silent auction was a lot of fun. The trip to Zube Park, well that's another story…

With the Houston Railroad Museum on the move, Division 8 has had to put the summer clinics on hold for this year. We are looking for locations to hold these clinics in the future.

We are looking forward to the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's Fall Layout Tours that begin in October. Also coming up, the Galveston Museum is having a train show on October 6 and 7. Come on down and ride a train.

As Director, I would like to bring more youth into the hobby as well as promote NMRA. I would like to work with some of our more experienced modelers to set up a mentor program to work with new members and those returning to the hobby after being away for a while. I am excited about being the new Division 8 Director and look forward to working with all of you.

G & G Model Shop has been a part of the Houston railroad modeling scene for over 65 years and Gus has been a part of it for over 60 years. Gus and his wife, Rhonda purchased G & G's in early 1970s and their daughter joined them 25 years ago. The shop is currently located in Rice Village, near Rice University and the medical center.

Gus and G & G's has always been a big supporter of model railroading by donating items for the local conventions. Gus is an avid HO modeler and his staff is very knowledgeable and eager to help customer their customers.

The shop carries a wide variety of model railroad rolling stock, locomotives, buildings, and detail parts. G & G's is the place to go for scratch building supplies.

We want to say a special thank you to Gus for all his support and enthusiasm for model railroading and we appreciate everything you do!

Papa Ben's Train Place has been supporting model railroading in the Houston area for 11 years. Ben Perlman started the store in 2001 in the Rice Village area of Houston and after his death, his brother Allyn took over and moved the store to the current location on Bellaire in 2008.

Papa Ben's is the only store in Houston that is exclusively dedicated to model railroading. The store hosts the Houston N'Crowd Club layout, which can be seen on the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's Fall Layout Tours.

Allyn has always been a big supporter of model railroading and is always there to lend his support by donating items and gift certificates when needed. Allyn and his professional staff are always eager to help those who are new to the hobby, and this enthusiasm has helped to show just how much fun model railroading can be. Thank you, Allyn, for all your support. We appreciate you!

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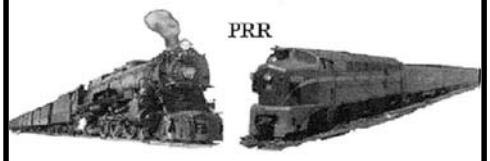
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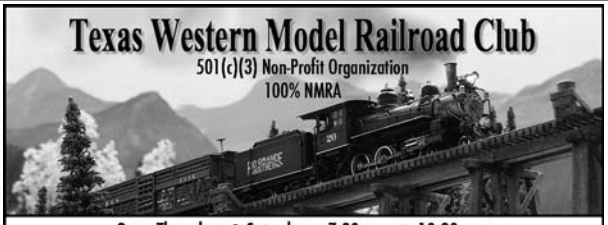

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